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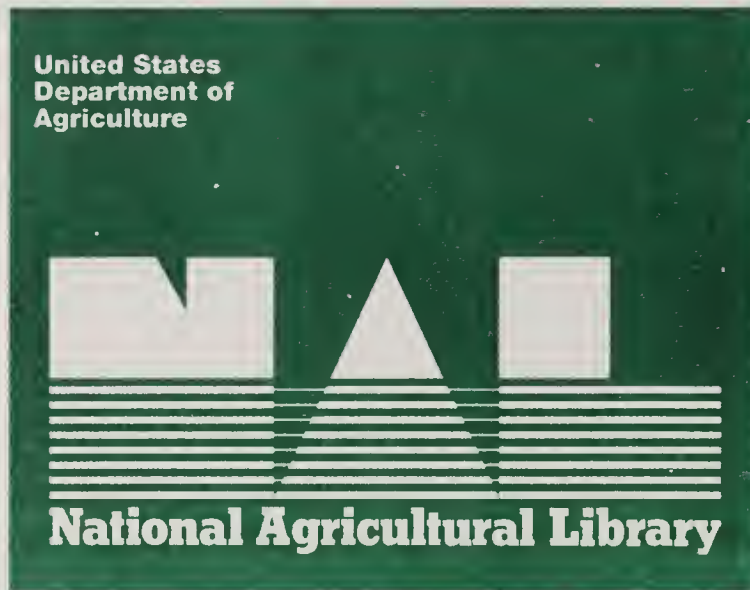
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U.S. Forum for the World Food Summit Summary Report

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Jefferson Auditorium
Washington, DC
June 3, 1996



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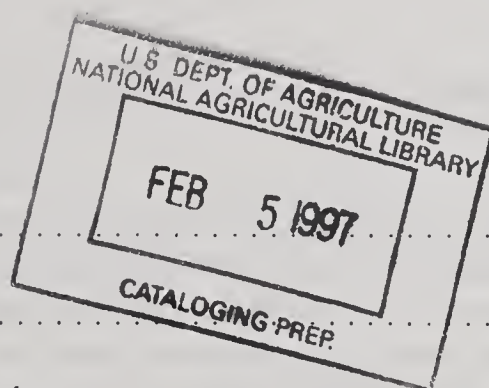


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Note: Major themes, recommendations, and summaries were presented without editorial comment or attempts to include opposing viewpoints. Inclusion of any statement does not imply USDA, Department of State, or USAID agreement to the validity or accuracy of the information presented.

Executive Summary

The U.S. Forum for the World Food Summit was held in Washington D.C., June 3, 1996. The Washington Forum was co-chaired by Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Eugene Moos, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Under Secretary for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth, Department of State; and Administrator J. Brian Atwood, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Opening remarks were made by the co-chairs and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman gave a keynote speech. Mr. Daniel G. Amstutz, Mr. Montague Yudelman, and Ms. Theresa Loar, VIP speakers, also provided remarks.

Forum participants were requested to provide comments and suggestions on the U.S. draft country paper, "The U.S. Contribution to World Food Security," being prepared for the World Food Summit on November 13-17, 1996, in Rome, Italy, and also the draft policy statement and plan of action to be adopted at the Summit. The purpose of the U.S. country paper is to provide:

- a clear understanding of current and future prospects for food security,
- information on what has been agreed to in other recent international conferences,
- the U.S. record with respect to support for food security domestically and internationally, and
- proposed policies, actions, and options, where they exist, that are critical to achieving a more food-secure world.

The paper will also guide the U.S. delegation's position on the draft policy statement and plan of action that will be adopted at the Rome Summit to ensure universal food security.

U.S. Government officials listened to 46 participants, including farmers; representatives of farm, consumer, and environmental groups; government leaders; students; concerned citizens; and consultants. Participants were divided into 12 panels, and each person had 3 minutes to present his or her views. U.S. Government officials explored additional questions and issues with each panel. Six statements and papers were submitted for the record by organizations that were unable to make a presentation.

Major themes presented were organized into seven subject areas:

- assessment of world hunger,
- domestic food security programs,
- environment and sustainability of global agriculture,
- U.S. contribution to world food security,

- the role of countries in helping themselves,
- trade and world food security, and
- food aid and development assistance.

Inclusion of a statement does not necessarily imply USDA, Department of State, or USAID agreement as to the validity or accuracy of the information presented.

In general, participants were supportive of the U.S. draft country paper, but made numerous comments and suggestions concerning the seven subject areas. Participants emphasized their view that poverty is the key to eliminating chronic hunger and malnutrition and that poverty must be eliminated to achieve true food security for all. They also stated their belief that world food security is a human problem, and that to achieve food security, we need to focus on people. What happens around the world affects us either directly or indirectly, hence, we need to work together to find solutions for eliminating global hunger and malnutrition. Sharing information, knowledge, and technology with governments and consumers is a necessary step in that process and should be encouraged at all levels.

Some participants felt that the United States needs to make stronger statements on U.S. food security at home and to be more proactive internationally. They also thought that the United States should play a leadership role at the Rome Summit in an effort to solve world hunger. At home, current USDA commodity programs should be redesigned to target domestic hunger relief. Urban community and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should be part of the response to solve domestic food security issues.

On environmental issues, the panelists agreed with the U.S. draft country paper that a sustainable natural resource base is one of the many factors that can influence the availability, access, and utilization of food and the food security of a country. The major concern was how to use land for agriculture in the most efficient manner, while saving the most habitat and creating the most environmental benefits. It was agreed that this should or could be done by:

- ensuring conservation and preservation of crop soils best suited for long-term grass or trees,
- promoting worldwide Integrated Crop Management systems, Integrated Nutrient Management programs, and Integrated Pest Management, and
- supporting sustainable agriculture and rural development activities.

For trade issues, there was a great deal of support for the United States to continue its efforts in negotiating better trade opportunities for American farmers. Many thought that it should be done in an effort to ensure the stability of the family farm and maintain the United States status as a reliable supplier, particularly with current world grain supplies at such unusually low levels. Some felt that the United States should emphasize to other countries that family farm agriculture is key

to establishing food security throughout the world. Instead of urging countries to adopt certain free trade philosophies, the United States should focus on the critical role family farms play in establishing and maintaining our nation's food security. Logistical barriers were another concern, particularly those which make it difficult to handle perishable commodities. Such barriers must be removed, if the U.S. livestock sector is to fulfill its potential to make animal protein available worldwide. It was also suggested that the United States emphasize the responsibility of net food exporters to be reliable suppliers in the market place. Some panelists felt that this would underpin our position that sustainable food security is a continuous effort.

A suggestion was made that the United States should call for the rapid integration of less developed countries into the world economy. The main theme was that food security is not just production agriculture, but that the growth of world incomes and populations will require investment in the entire agri-food infrastructure.

Panel members pointed out the importance of food access and distributional issues. Many felt that the U.S. Government should increase its funding commitment to development assistance and food aid programs to stop the current decline in resources. Several panelists stressed the importance of preserving food aid as a development tool and as an emergency preventive rather than letting available food aid supplies be siphoned off by emergencies. Finally, many panel members raised the issue of preserving emergency food reserves both domestically and internationally.

Other issues raised were the importance of emphasizing agriculture in development assistance programs, the importance of agricultural research to food security, the importance of food quality for nutrition, integration of food aid and development assistance, cooperation with other countries and international institutions in development assistance activities, the importance of women in food security, and the need to consider urban food security as well as rural.

In closing, Under Secretary Moos extended the U.S. Government's appreciation to all who contributed their valuable time and expertise to the success of the forum, and indicated that their views would be taken into account as preparations for the Summit proceed.

List of Participants

U.S. Government Officials

The Honorable Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture

The Honorable Eugene Moos, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

The Honorable Timothy Wirth, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs

Mr. J. Brian Atwood, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

The Honorable Richard Rominger, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

List of VIP Panelists

Mr. Daniel G. Amstutz, President/CEO, North American Export Grain Association

Mr. Montague Yudelman, Former Director of Agriculture, World Bank

Ms. Teresa Loar, Council Woman, Kansas City, Missouri

List of Presenters

Panel 1: Assessment of World Hunger

Ms. Jennifer Dec, Program Associate, Save the Children

Sr. Mary Theresa Plante, Franciscans International

Ms. Sage Teton, World Summit of Children

Panel 2: Assessment of World Hunger

Ms. Mary Renard, La Leche League International

Ms. Rhona Applebaum, Ph. D., Executive Vice President, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, National Food Processors Association

Mr. Robert G. Lewis, Washington, D.C.

Mr. John Teton, International Food Security Treaty Campaign

Mr. Martin M. McLaughlin, Center of Concern, Washington, D.C.

Panel 3: Environment and Sustainability of Global Agriculture

Mr. Dave Juday, Hudson Institute, Center for Global Food Issues

Mr. Roger G. Hanson, Ph.D., AJH Corporation

Mr. Norman A. Berg, Soil and Water Conservation Society

Mr. Gary L. Valen, Managing Director, Eating With Conscience Programs, The Humane Society of the United States

Mr. Jay J. Vroom, President, American Crop Protection Association

Panel 4: Environment and Sustainability of Global Agriculture

Dr. R. Heather Jaffan, Rotary International

Mr. Richard E. Gutting, Jr., National Fisheries Institute

Ms. Mimi Kleiner, Environmental Defense Fund

Dr. J. Patrick Madden, World Sustainable Agriculture Association

Panel 5: Environment and Sustainability of Global Agriculture

Mr. Tim Warman, American Farmland Trust

Ms. Linda Elswick, Rural Advancement Foundation International

Panel 6: Domestic Food Security Programs

Ms. Christine Vladimiroff, President and Chief Executive Officer, Second Harvest National Network of Food Banks

Ms. Nanine Bilski, President, America the Beautiful Fund

Mr. Marc Cohen, Senior Research Associate, Bread for the World

Panel 7: Domestic Food Security Programs

Mr. A.G. Kawamura, President, Western Market Company and a farmer in Southern California

Mr. Peter Mann, International Coordinator, World Hunger Year

Panel 8: U.S. Contribution to World Food Security

Mr. Nelson Denlinger, U.S. Wheat Associates

Mr. Peter Vitaliano, Director, Policy Analysis, National Milk Producers Federation

Mr. David D. Bathrick, President, Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development

Mr. Clifton Curtis, Greenpeace

Mr. Alex Hershaft, president, Farm Animal Reform Movement

Panel 9: The Role of Countries in Helping Themselves

Ms. Katherine Ozer, Director, National Family Farm Coalition

Rev. Imagene B. Stewart, National President, African-American Women's Clergy Association

Panel 10: Trade and World Food Security

Ms. Lynne McBride, National Farmer Union

Ms. Susan Keith, National Corn Growers Association

Ms. Carol L. Brookins, President, World Perspectives

Panel 11: Food Aid and Development Assistance

Dr. Jindra Cekan, Food Security Advisor, Catholic Relief Services

Mr. James R. Phippard, Senior Vice President, Agricultural Cooperative Development International

Ms. Ellen S. Levinson, Executive Director, Coalition for Food Aid

Ms. Betsy Faga, President, Protein Grain Products International

Panel 12: Food Aid and Development Assistance

Mr. Tracy Atwood, Chief, Food Policy Division, BIFAD

Ms. Elizabeth Turner, Executive Director,
Sustain

Mr. Detlef Peutz, International Food Policy
Research Institute

Mr. Larry Thompson, Senior Associate,
Refugees International

Mr. Larry Greig, Farmer, New York

**Papers Submitted by Those Unable to
Attend**

American Farm Bureau Federation

Heidi Huttenbach and Max Finberg--
Congressional Hunger Center

Arthur E. (Gene) Dewey--Executive
Director, Congressional Hunger Center
John Staatz, Department of Agricultural
Economics, Michigan State University

Robin S. Johnson, Corporate Vice President,
Cargill Incorporated

R. Hunt Davis, Jr., Coordinator, Global
Research on the Environmental and
Agricultural Nexus Initiative (GREAN)

John Staatz, Department of Agricultural
Economics, Michigan State University

Opening Remarks By Under Secretary Eugene Moos

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Eugene Moos and I am the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As co-chair of the U.S. interagency working group overseeing Summit preparations along with Under Secretary of State Timothy Wirth and U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Brian Atwood, I want to welcome you to the U.S. Forum for the World Food Summit. It is my pleasure this morning to welcome you, and we are happy to get started.

As you are aware, this forum is being held to hear from those of you in the private sector, the nongovernmental and international organizations and academia. We look forward to your input this morning, as the U.S. Government prepares for the World Food Summit to be held in Rome in November of 1996.

In 1974, the world community committed itself to eradicating hunger and malnutrition at the World Food Conference. Twenty years later, the Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, of the United Nations has called for a renewed commitment from world leaders to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and achieve food security for all.

Against this backdrop, tight food supplies have created heightened concern worldwide about the food needs of low-income food deficit countries and the increased burden these nations face in feeding their people. Here at home, the new farm bill is moving the United States towards a more market-oriented farm policy. The U.S. Government is holding less grain in reserve, and allowing market forces to drive production decisions on what to plant. Taking all of these factors into consideration, we are here today to reexamine the role of the United States and the international community in support of world food security issues. We are here to listen to you, to comment on your suggestions and to incorporate your thoughts and ideas into the final U.S. country paper which we are formulating to guide us in preparation for the World Food Summit. We value your opinions and the time you have taken to come here today, and thank you very much for that help.

I want to clarify for you the process of preparing the U.S. country paper that we are here to discuss. This paper is a joint effort by many U.S. Government agencies -- in fact, all Government agencies. We have already had three interagency meetings, with some 30 people usually in the room, to discuss how we should approach this issue.

The purpose of the paper is to provide a clear understanding of current and future prospects for food security, information on what has been agreed to in other recent international conferences, the U.S. record with respect to support for food security domestically and internationally, and proposed policies, actions and options, where they exist, that are critical to achieving a more food-secure world. Your comments will be carefully considered as we finalize the U.S. country paper. This paper will be an important paper. It will be read around the world, and will provide concrete examples of U.S. programs, policy priorities and perspectives. It will also guide the U.S. delegation's position on the draft policy statement and plan of action that will be adopted at the

summit to ensure universal food security.

In addition to the U.S. country paper, a joint paper for the summit is also being prepared by the United States and Canada that will involve another forum to be held on June 24th and 25th in East Lansing, Michigan, at Michigan State University. This forum will allow government officials from the United States and Canada to get expert comment from invited speakers on the U.S.-Canada paper.

Today, panels will run in approximately 30-minute increments, organized by similar subject matter. Each presenter will be given 3 minutes to summarize his or her position. And, of course, we know that most people will have longer statements, and they will be included in the record for consideration as we develop or finalize our country paper. We will also, after we hear from the panelists, have a short period following each panel for questions and answers, as Under Secretary Wirth, Administrator Atwood and myself, as well as other experts, ask questions.

Keynote Speech by Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture

Good morning, and thank you all very much. I am particularly appreciative of the fact that my former colleague in the Congress for many years, Tim Wirth, is here. Secretary Wirth is a national and world leader on a variety of environmental and population and food issues, and I am delighted to have him here and to see him, and Brian Atwood, who I also have a very long history with, as well.

Let me just make a few comments. One is that we are delighted to host this, but I would point out, as Gene did, that AID and the State Department -- particularly AID -- has been out in the forefront of food aid for years and years and years, and often fighting against a lot of forces who want to see that effort reduced. And without the effort of AID, we would not have made the progress that we have made over the last 2 or 3 decades, in terms of trying to bring people's standards of living up. So I want to say that this is a cooperative effort, with AID, with our fine folks at the State Department under Tim's leadership, and USDA, working together to prepare for a World Food Summit.

The goal of this public forum today is for people here to give us some specific ideas on, one, what the U.S. position ought to be as we lead the way into a new century, where we try to make sure that, with the population trends and everything else, that we do not in fact regress in terms of hunger and malnutrition, and also specific steps maybe that the U.S. can take to try to deal with some of the shortfalls that Brian referred to in the paper today, or perhaps steps in the research area, other kinds of things that we might be doing.

Let me just mention a couple of things. One is that the fight to end hunger, both at home and abroad, has been going on for much too long. One of the things our agency does is deal with hunger and malnutrition domestically. And we have been dealing with that since the 1930's. We run the Food Stamp Program that basically provides food for 27 million low-income Americans,

mostly working families with children. We run the WIC Program, Women, Infants and Children, so that pregnant women can get the nutrition they need for healthy babies, and newborns get a nutritional start in life. And we run the Food Stamp Program. Tomorrow, that program will be 50 years old. Harry Truman created that program 50 years ago, June 4th. And that perhaps has been one of the most successful of all programs in the history of this country in fighting malnutrition. So we have tried to carry forward in the effort, both sides of the aisles, over a period of years, to try to deal with malnutrition at home.

And recently, I have committed USDA to leading a national effort to coordinate public and private projects to deal with food waste called gleaning -- an effort to try to prevent the millions of pounds of day of food that is thrown into the dumpster, in the garbage, perfectly healthy nutritional food. So food recovery, food rescue and ending hunger in America is one of our big jobs. But we can take much of what we have done and develop that and transfer that technology, transfer the infrastructure overseas to the global economy. Though some in this country still face hunger, the fact of the matter is we are fortunate in America that we have never experienced famine, like virtually every other part of the world has. For most countries, food security is a matter of national security. And that is even in developed nations in Western Europe and the Far East, where food security is at the high point of all the policy decisions their governments make. And therefore, food security is a matter of world peace. Helping the less fortunate is our humanitarian duty, and we must take up the challenge in the world.

Over the past 2 decades, the international community has taken great strides in reducing the number of chronically undernourished people in developing countries. And I am proud to say, through the efforts of AID, the State Department and USDA, as well as others, we in the United States have been the leader in this area. And we must continue to be the leader in this area. Still, almost 800 million people continue to suffer, and that is just unacceptable. Since 1950, the U.S. has contributed more than \$220 billion in official development assistance grants and loans to support economic development in low-income countries. And I am proud to say that agriculture has been the flagship of this assistance program. Through P.L. 480, the Food for Peace, we have provided 370 million metric tons of commodities, valued at \$47 billion. So, in the past, we have done a great job.

The purpose of this meeting is to look to the future, to see what we can do in a changing world to be adaptable and flexible in providing these needs. In the short term, weather conditions have caused a sharp decline in 1995-1996 cereal production, and an accompanying decline in end-of-year world cereal stocks, to the lowest level in 20 years. The result has been a large increase in international cereal prices, which is aggravating food costs for some importing countries. We believe strongly that this situation is short term. We believe that we must work through the current price spikes, although I do believe that farm prices will be higher over the next decade than they have been in the past decade. But we should not let the short-term spikes detract us from the long-term structural problem of food security that needs to be dealt with. In the long-term, a study by USDA's Economic Research Service shows that even under relatively favorable world weather and crop conditions, available food aid will be increasingly inadequate to

meet the future emergency and chronic needs of certain countries. Therefore, reliance only on food aid is not the answer. We must begin to look for ways to enable food deficit countries to take greater responsibility for their own food security.

As many traditional donor nations face budget cuts, like the United States, food aid and development assistance will unfortunately not go up in the next few years. Hard decisions will have to be made to reduce dependence on external assistance and increase self-reliance in food deficit countries. A recent FAO paper suggests developing countries can do a lot by, one, changing policies that do little to encourage agricultural productions; two, allowing the market to work in a free flow of goods; and three, assuring a climate of political stability to encourage investment. The core issue is finding the political will to focus attention and resources on the food system and on rural society, to recast policies to favor agriculture. At the same time, new agricultural production policies should be based on comparative advantage, not agricultural protectionism. The United States certainly does not have all the answers, but we stand ready to work with all countries that are committed to taking steps towards greater self-reliance in food.

As we consider steps to improve food security, we should keep in mind that the Uruguay Round was not the end of the process of trade liberalization. More work needs to be done in the years ahead, and the United States will maintain a leadership role in that effort. In response to concerns that it could present short-term problems in agriculture for developing countries, especially low-income food deficit countries, the agreement recognizes the special needs of these countries by providing them special treatment for a transition period. Also, keep in mind that the Uruguay Round agreement is expected to stimulate growth in the world economy by up to \$5 trillion over the next decade. This world economic growth will stimulate foreign investment in developing countries. The developing countries that adjust most effectively will reap the most benefit from liberalized trade.

On the other hand, the benefits to all nations that we expect from trade reforms would be stifled by introducing production and trade-distorting policies in the name of food security. We continue to stand by our commitment to freer but fairer trade. We will remain an open market and a reliable supplier to the world. Now, if I just may mention a couple of other issues before I close. One is conservation and the other is research. Just as we should not look at low stocks and high prices as a situation that will continue indefinitely, neither should we look at the rising rate of agricultural production as a given. My mother used to tell me about a story of a farmer who had a goose that laid golden eggs, one each day. To get all the eggs at once, the short-sighted farmer killed the goose, and got no more eggs at all. It is a cautionary tale to which all nations would do well to heed. We must conserve and sustain the farmland and water we need to produce food. The integration of environmental concerns into sustainable development is essential to long-term food security. In the area of research, a few years back, economists suggested seven wonders of the modern world. These were things that would stun any person from another century who saw and understood them. No sooner was the list printed than the magazine received over 150 suggestions for the eighth wonder. Various improvements in agriculture got several votes. However, the editors wrote, "The huge increase in the world's food production is wonderful, but

it is the result of many moderate wonders, not one big one." To me, those moderate wonders are spectacular examples of agricultural research.

To meet the growing demand for food and fiber worldwide, as well as to conserve our natural resources, we will need all the technology we can develop. With global population expected to nearly double in 40 years, global food security will hinge on scientific innovation. Fortunately, the United States has a rich history of public and private funded research. To feed the world in the next century, technology must be our ally, to find a heartier strain of wheat, to meet the demands of changing weather patterns, to reduce our reliance on chemicals and pesticides, or to produce crops with far less water. I might add that in that area it seems that one of the greatest challenges of all is water. Because if you have increasing urbanization in the world -- we see this now in China -- the demands of water to be pulled away from traditional agricultural areas will mean that if we want to produce similar quantities of food, it will have to be done with significantly less water. And that means changing our patterns of production and it means finding crops that can grow and yield good results with far less water. We are already developing new breeds of plants that will improve nutrition levels in developing countries, including high-lysine rice and carrots high in beta carotene. Research like this is a crucial factor in the food security equation. Furthermore, as we rely increasingly on products created by new technology, we will simply have to be rational about the use of biotechnology. We must apply timely, science-based and fair review procedures to its application and its products.

Overall, the United States must stand by our commitment to help developing nations find solutions to their growing food needs. Today, the world is more connected than ever -- through information, ideas and goods and services. Countries must be aware of the dangers of political and economic isolationism. It inevitably leads to a lower standard of living, to fewer jobs, and a greater risk of conflict.

While the impetus for food security must come from the developing nations themselves, we recognize that the donor community also has an important role to play. Like other nations, we are using our preparation for the World Food Summit as an opportunity to consider our future policies in world food security. We will continue to provide leadership for an integrated approach to economic growth. This means an approach that includes food aid, development assistance, recognition of the essential role of the women population, health factors, critical attention to sustainable development, and strong support for agricultural research. I will be the first to say that we do not have all the answers. The problems are so monumental that sometimes you get worried that you cannot even scratch the surface. But that is why we are seeking your views today, and I see this forum as a continuation of an ongoing process leading up to the Rome Summit, as well as a process that may help us change some of our domestic policies to deal with the problems both at home and abroad.

In conclusion, I would say that no nation can go it alone in this world. The world is getting smaller and more connected than ever before. The World Food Summit will focus necessary international attention on the critical issue of world food security. The United States is committed

to working to make this summit an important and productive event. We look forward to your valuable insights in helping us to address the problems of hunger, famine and malnutrition at home and around the world. I thank you again very much for coming.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce to you Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Tim Wirth. Mr. Wirth coordinates a broad range of global programs, including population, environment, science, counter-narcotics, democracy, human rights, and refugees. Prior to joining the Clinton administration in 1993, Mr. Wirth was a U.S. Senator from Colorado. Before that, of course, he was also a member of the House of Representatives, where he was chairman of the subcommittee on telecommunications. Please join with me in welcoming our Under Secretary of State Tim Wirth.

Remarks By Under Secretary for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth, Department of State

We in the Department of State are very concerned about the potential of a dramatically different food situation around the world, particularly in certain spots of the world. The farm bill and the market forces are changing the nature of subsidies in the United States and surpluses here. The passage of GATT and the decline of national subsidies makes sort of the keel of food availability disappear, and prices therefore become more volatile. The research issue is one which I think almost everybody here shares -- the declining research pot, just at a time when it would appear that we need to place even greater emphasize on agricultural research and rural agricultural development. Population increases around the world, by 100 million people per year -- that is the equivalent of a Mexico every year, a New York City every month, a China every decade, a long-term prospect which is indeed very daunting.

Environmental degradation is coming to be understood, as Brian Atwood has so well pointed out so many times in the context of sustainable development, 10 percent of the world's arable land has been destroyed; approximately 80 percent of the world's arable land suffers from moderate to severe erosion. We are challenged as never before in the issues of biological diversity and access to the genetic pool. The United States has signed the Biodiversity Treaty, but so far the U. S. Senate has not agreed to ratify the treaty, putting us into a very awkward situation of maintaining access to that genetic pool not only by U.S. agricultural industries, but by our pharmaceutical industries and others, putting us in a position of potentially confronting a kind of gene wars, which would be enormously destructive and unfortunate. And, finally, we see dramatic changes in world food demand, particularly with the entry of China into the world food market. The Chinese appear to be quite ambivalent about their perception of this. Is it a real threat or is it something that can be acknowledged? I think the prudent thing for us to do is to assume that demand is going to increase and take actions accordingly.

Consequently, this effort, led by the Department of Agriculture, and in which AID and the State Department are so pleased to join, is extremely important as we prepare for the World Food Summit. I want to thank in particular the Department of Agriculture, Gus Schumacher and company, who have done such a good job of pulling this together, and Brian's colleagues at

USAID, Sally Shelton and company. I am particularly pleased to see this coming forth with a short, focused rewrite of the basic U.S. country paper, which now can be tracked. It is going to have some significant annexes, but I think it is now at a point that it is a usable document, as I have suggested, in the King's English. Gene, I want to thank everybody for doing such a very good job with that. Thank you all very much for being here. It is very valuable input from our panel members and others, and we look forward to hearing from you. Thank you very much.

Remarks by Administrator J. Brian Atwood, U.S. Agency For International Development

Thank you. This opportunity today for people to come from around the country to comment on the U.S. paper for this World Food Summit is probably unique, when you consider the preparations that other countries will go through. For the most part, they will have government bureaucrats preparing the position of countries. Here, I think, we have such a rich society, such a society made up of nongovernmental groups, that this experience that we are going to have today is going to make the U.S. position, I think, all the more rich, in terms of the quality of the work that we present.

The U.S. has contributed more to world food security over the years than any other country. And it is because we have tapped into research centers and universities, land grant colleges, farmers, others, who really understand exactly how to go about either getting the policy framework correct for agricultural productions or simply producing the food necessary to solve some of the world's greatest problems.

What has that contribution been? Obviously, we have contributed tremendous amounts of food through the Food for Peace Programs, the P.L. 480's, Titles I, II and III, over the years, to solve problems when food deficits have existed, as they of course exist now more than ever before. And that has been one contribution. The other contribution that we have made over the years is to help countries get their policy framework straight. We have done that through the agricultural experts that have come, both from the Foreign Agricultural Service, but also from AID.

Most people would associate agricultural policies with the Agriculture Department, but the Agency for International Development has worked hand in glove with USDA over the years to help countries get the policy framework correct, so that they themselves can increase agricultural production in their own societies. One of the problems in some of these very poor societies is that the government has attempted to dominate excessively the agriculture sector. In many of these societies that are very, very poor, it is the most important economic sector in the society itself. We, in this paper, are asserting that these governments ought to take even more responsibility for getting the policy framework right. They need to look at the extent to which agricultural inputs are controlled by governments, the extent to which the marketplace will determine the supply-and-demand problem that exists in each of these countries, the extent to which the government is overly taxing those who would produce and distribute food products, et cetera. And over the years, USAID has helped to get this policy framework straight, obviously, tapping into some of the people that are in this room to make that contribution.

We have also contributed greatly to agricultural research around the world. It has caused us to keep up with some of the disease problems that we face, but, more importantly, it has created the green revolution. It has helped us to produce enough food so that, theoretically at least, everyone should have access to sufficient amounts of food so that they could avoid starvation or malnutrition. Unfortunately, it is not simply the gross amounts of food that are available to people around the world, it is whether or not poor people can access that food. It is whether they can actually afford to pay for it. And, as you know, increasingly, that has become a very serious problem. So we need to continue to do the research necessary to find the new technological breakthroughs that will lead us to a new green revolution. It is not going to be anywhere near as dramatic as the old green revolution, but we are going to have to continue just to stay up with some of the problems that we face.

We are almost on a treadmill with respect to agricultural research. If we do not keep investing in it, we are going to find ourselves with major problems that will affect the crops around the world. Someone the other day suggested that if we ever had a rice blight in Asia, we would have starvation that you could not imagine. So this is the kind of thing we have to keep investing in. Unfortunately, because of the story that you saw in The Washington Post this morning, the amounts that we have available for those investments are going down just at the moment, as Under Secretary of State Wirth mentioned, when we need them the most. So we continue to have a real interest. It has a direct impact on American agriculture. We contribute a \$22 billion surplus to the U.S. balance of payments as a result of the work that we have done over the years in creating new markets for American agricultural products. It is something that we must continue to do, obviously, if we are going to succeed in this global economy. But, even more importantly, it is consistent with our values as a nation to want to solve problems at their source, rather than having to continue to provide huge quantities of our own food to people on an emergency basis. We can sell that food if we can help these economies develop. And that is a principle that I hope will be reflected in the paper that we go to the World Food Summit with.

I am delighted to be here. I am delighted that we are reaching out to the country for ideas. I expect that this will be a very good day, in terms of the number of ideas that will be presented to us. The country paper that you will have seen started at, I believe, 47 pages. It is down to 7 now. That is exactly the kind of approach we want to take. We do not want to add much. We do not want to add quantity. What we want are the quality of your ideas. So thank you for coming. I appreciate it.

Remarks by Richard Rominger, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

This is such an important subject to all of us here at USDA that I just wanted to be here to hear the opening comments and to encourage all of you to assist in this project of developing our country paper here, so that we can do a good job when it comes to the Rome World Food Summit in November. Thank you all for being here.

Major Themes and Recommendations of Participants

U.S. Forum for the World Food Summit drew 46 individuals, including 3 VIP speakers, commenting on the U.S. country draft paper prepared for the World Food Summit on November 13-17, 1996, in Rome, Italy. There were six submitted papers from participants who did not make a presentation at the forum. The major themes and recommendations are summarized below.

Assessment of World Hunger

- Poverty is the root cause of hunger. Poverty will be eliminated only when there is a true global commitment to do so. Lack of economic opportunity and restricted economic incentives causes poverty. (Daniel Amstutz) Poverty reduction ought to be emphasized. (The America the Beautiful Fund)
- Current shortages of supply are a temporary aberration, if incentives are permitted, markets will work to balance supply and demand. The world can produce enough for this growing demand. (Daniel Amstutz)
- Food insecurity is a human problem. Reduced to the human level, food security is the absence of hunger and food insecurity is hunger. (Save the Children)
- Food security is a basic right, and is best ensured when food is locally produced, with adequate stocks. (Franciscans International)

- Farmers in world markets can produce enough for everyone now, and for the foreseeable future, if they are paid at costs of production, plus a fair return to themselves and their families. (Robert Lewis, Agrarian News)
- The structure of the global food system, especially international grain markets, bear directly on the world food situation. It is not a short-term phenomenon. (Center of Concern)

Environment and Sustainable of Global Agriculture

- A sustainable natural resource base is one of the many factors which can influence the availability, access, and utilization of food and the food security of a country. It can be compatible with all-out production if producers continue to practice sustainable agriculture. (Norman Berg, Soil and Water Conservation Society) The United States success will depend on its ability to balance global food demands with sustainable agriculture production. (American Farmland Trust) World food security is best provided by long-term commitments to humane, organic, and sustainable agriculture (The Humane Society of the United States).
- Promote the use of Integrated Crop Management Systems, Integrated Nutrient Management Programs, and Integrated Pest Management worldwide. Soil and water require better management in order to

preventing loss of nutrient and degradation. (AJH Corporation, American Crop Protection Association, The Environmental Defense Fund)

- Focus on how to use land for agriculture in the most efficient manner, and save the most habitat, while creating the environmental benefit. (Center for Global Food Issues)
- “Don’t forget the fish.” Fish and shellfish supply 20 percent of the animal protein in the human diet and provide employment for 120 million people around the world. Fishery resources are renewable and do not require the chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and growth hormones which are often used in the production of other foods. (U.S. National Fisheries Institute)
- The promotion of ecologically harmful and dangerous chemical pesticides and genetically engineered seeds owned by multinational corporations poses a grave threat to farmers and to food security worldwide. (World Sustainable Agricultural Association) The United States should consider the role of food quality in addressing food security and nutrition concerns. (SUSTAIN, National Food Processor Association)

Domestic Food Security Programs

- The current food assistance programs such as school lunch, Women, Infants and Children, Food Stamps, and other efforts are a step in the right direction, but adequate and sustained funding to support effective programs must remain a high priority. (Dr. J. Patrick Madden, World Sustainable Agricultural Association)
- Programs here at home are not notable and not enough. We need to make a stronger statements about our struggle to food security. USDA commodity programs can be redesigned to target domestic hunger relief. (Second Harvest)
- Non-government organizations (NGOs) and urban community should be a part of response to solve domestic food security. (Second Harvest, Western Market Company, World Hunger Year, SUSTAIN, Congressional Hunger Center)
- The new farm bill that decouples farm programs from the market and phases them out over seven years puts our nation in jeopardy of eliminating family-sized farms altogether. (National Farmer Union)
- The issue of whether or not to hold reserves is still with us, and needs to be addressed. (Norman Grieg, Fruit and Dairy Farmer)

U.S. Contribution to World Food Security

- The United States should insist on further liberalization, eliminating export subsidies, state trading enterprises, and on the eventual elimination of green boxes. (Daniel Amstutz)
- The U.S. food processing industry must play an important role in achieving world food security by providing safe, nutritious, shelf-stable products for the export market; and helping educate consumers, government officials, and other nations about new technologies. (Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, National Food Processors Association)
- The U.S. delegation should support the world wide implementation of integrated crop management systems, extend the further progress of international harmonization of regulatory standards for the market approval of crop protection products, and other technologies, and require more thorough recognition and global protection of important intellectual property protection which are the bedrock of continued innovation. (American Crop Protection Association)
- The United States should give more emphasis to the importance of more human training and investing in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. (John Staatz, Michigan State University)
- The United States must play a

leading role in solving world hunger. (World Perspectives, Inc., Bread for the World) The United States needs a more proactive approach, one that effectively mobilizes the developed and developing countries. (International Agriculture and Rural Development)

- The Summit is an important opportunity for the United States to work in collaboration with other governments who recognize the importance of programs for each country to meet their domestic needs. (National Family Farm Coalition)

The Role of Countries in Helping Themselves

- Farmers and consumers should be part of solutions to end hunger. (National Family Farm Coalition)
- Charity begins at home, here in the U.S.A., then spreads abroad. Other countries should take care of themselves. (African-American Women's Clergy Association)

Trade and World Food Security

- The U.S. should maintain its reputation as a reliable supplier of food and feed, and emphasize the responsibility of net exporters to be reliable suppliers in the market place as well. (National Corn Growers Association)

- The U.S. should call for the rapid integration of less developed countries into the world economy. (World Perspectives)
- Understanding that food security is not just production agriculture and that the growth of world incomes and populations will require investment in the entire agri-food infrastructure to sustain expanding food needs of rapidly changing demographics. (World Perspectives)

Food Aid and Development Assistance

- The U.S. Government should increase its funding commitment to agricultural research, development assistance, and especially food aid programs to stop the current decline in resources. (Catholic Relief Service) The Green Revolution has reach a point of diminishing returns. We need to increase agricultural research such as Consultative Group for International Agricultural research (CGIAR) (Montague Yudelman), and research funding (Cargill, Incorporated). FAO needs to recognize a need for increased and continued high yield research in agriculture (Hudson Institute).
- There is a need to recognize the importance of preserving the development contribution of food aid and preventing emergencies, rather than letting food aid be siphoned off by emergencies. (Coalition for Food Aid)

Summary of Presentations¹

VIP Panelists

Daniel G. Amstutz, President/CEO, North American Export Grain Association

Poverty is the root cause of hunger. Poverty will be eliminated only when there is a true global commitment to do so. Lack of economic opportunity and restricted economic incentives causes poverty. Opportunities for the generation of wealth around the world have been more successful in reducing hunger and malnutrition in the past two decades than food aid programs. The United States should insist on further liberalization, eliminating export subsidies, state trading enterprises, and on the eventual elimination of green boxes.

Current shortages of supply are a temporary aberration, if incentives are permitted, markets will work to balance supply and demand. The world can produce enough for this growing demand.

Montague Yudelman--Former Director of Agriculture, World Bank

Looking ahead for the next 20 or 30 years, there are some difficulties in increasing food supply in the developing countries due to difficulties in increasing yields. Slow yield growth stems from slow rate of expansion of irrigation, diminishing returns for fertilizer, and not enough increase in new seed varieties.

¹Summaries may have been quoted or paraphrased.

The second reason for difficulties in increasing food supply is poor quality of soil in Africa, where population growth is faster than food production.

I recommend to increase agricultural research such as CGIAR (Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research), persuade FAO and others to develop a coherent fertilizer policy in Africa, improve soil productivity, and develop a coherent strategy for water use.

Teresa Loar, Councilwomen Kansas City, Missouri

Kansas City will host an International Agricultural Summit, July 14-17. The summit is designed to bring U.S. and emerging markets' agricultural leaders together to discuss the new market opportunities and challenges to development. We hope to set an example for other cities in becoming a part of the solution for sustainable development, and taking a lead in the world, setting policy examples.

Assessment of World Hunger

Jennifer Dec--Program Associate, Save the Children

The U.S. country draft paper overemphasized economic policies as a primary cause of food insecurity. It was silent on the plight of hungry people and what we can do to feed them. The United States should adopt a position that acknowledges food insecurity as a human problem. Reduced to the human level, food security is the absence of hunger and food insecurity is hunger. Save the Children suggests that hungry people must be the focus of the debate in Rome and that non-governmental organizations should help develop programs that address chronic hunger. It is suggested that people read and embrace a World Food Program paper addressing hunger entitled "Tackling Hunger in a World Full of Food: Tasks Ahead for Food Aid".

Sister Mary Theresa--Franciscans International

There will be no long-term security and stability in developed countries without security and stability in developing countries. Food security is a basic right, and is best ensured when food is locally produced, with adequate stocks. Franciscans International strongly supports UNCED and Agenda 21 commitments, particularly with respect to water and deforestation.

Armed conflicts among states and civil disturbances disrupt food production, distribution, commerce, and consumption.

The following points should be addressed at the Summit: every country should be food sufficient; FAO should have WEB site information on food deficit countries; Summit follow-up should indicate progress or failure of actions; food deficit country information should be part of reporting of structural adjustment programs; the U.S. Government should take an active part in follow-up of international conferences; the root causes of lack of food need to be explored; and government programs are not the only answer.

Sage Teton--the World Summit of Children

Ms. Teton represents the World Summit of Children, a group of people ages 9-18 who have been promised a role in the dialogue on food security at the Summit. Children's councils worldwide should assist nations in implementing the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the International Food Security Treaty principles. They ask that U.S. delegates to the Summit encourage the delegations of other countries to give them time to speak in Rome.

Mary Renard, La Leche League International

Human milk, a global resource, is the unequaled food for infants and young children. Breast feeding decreases infant morbidity and mortality and enhances birth spacing, all of which are closely associated with good nutrition for child and mother. It helps prevent micro-nutrient deficiencies and is important in the prevention of Vitamin A and iron deficiency. La Leche recommends that the U.S. delegation, along with other governments, recommit to the Innocenti

Declaration, Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children, World Declaration and Plan of Action of the International Conference on Nutrition, and the Platform for Action of the World Conference on Women; that the Summit documents include a plan to incorporate human milk in food production statistics; that experienced breast feeding women, as producers of a vital natural resource, be included in development of nutritional programs; and that activities which promote breast feeding as a natural method for spacing pregnancies be supported globally, regionally, nationally, and at the community level.

Rhona Applebaum, Executive Vice President for Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, National Food Processors Association

U.S. food producers manufacture and market food products that are among the safest and most nutritious in the world. They have an important role in contributing to world food security. Food safety often is a critical issue for people in developing countries -- particularly for children. The U.S. food processing industry must play an important role in achieving world food security by providing safe, nutritious, shelf-stable products for the export market; and helping educate consumers, government officials, and other nations about new technologies. Sharing of technology allows developing countries to expand industries, creating employment and building economies with exportable products.

Robert G. Lewis, Agrarian News

The farmers of the world can produce enough for everyone now, and for the foreseeable future -- if they are paid at costs of production, plus a fair return to themselves and their families. The solution to solving the food shortage problem is to just pay farmers what it costs to produce enough. Doing this would create another problem -- a farm surplus. We need to move forward in the spirit of generosity, courage, creativity, and responsible self-interest .

John Teton, International Food Security Treaty Campaign

The International Food Security Treaty aims to place the right to eat under the protection of enforceable international law. It has been recognized by many as a crucial missing link in the world's efforts to eliminate hunger. Declarations on this subject are usually high minded, but toothless. Anyone who thinks we are immune to the security risks posed by poverty and hunger ought to listen to the words of Dwight D. Eisenhower when he warned it is madness to suppose that there could be an island of tranquility and prosperity in a sea of wretchedness and frustration. Mr. Teton's proposed treaty would be an affirmative commitment; the U.S. delegation should bring the treaty to Rome.

Martin M. McLaughlin, Center of Concern

The FAO documents lack an analysis that explains why a global food system that produces enough food every year to provide an adequate diet for every person on the planet nevertheless leaves 800 million people

hungry every day. The structure of the global food system, especially international grain markets, bear directly on the situation; it is not a short-term phenomenon.

Industrialized countries produce nearly half the world's food, and most of that is consumed in the country or region where it is grown. Nine-tenths of total exports come from industrialized countries, developing countries account for little more than 10 percent of exports; much of it being low-priced primary commodities.

What the United States does about food policy profoundly affects the global food system and the lives of millions of hungry people in food deficit countries, as well as the 35 million people in the United States who live below the poverty line who are suffering. The U.S. country paper is too narrow a concept of U.S. interest -- "Why is world food security important for the United States?" The central point of the Summit is that food security is crucial for people, and therefore for the United States and the world.

Environment and Sustainability of Global Agriculture

Dave Juday, Adjunct Fellow, Hudson Institute: Center For Global Food Issues

Environmentalists have shown us that the biggest threat to the environment is the loss of wildlife habitat and the species that live in that habitat. So the issue is, how do we use land for agriculture in the most efficient manner, saving the most habitat, while creating the most environmental benefit? The answer is two-part. To support a growing population which consumes more resource-costly commodities and achieve the

goals mentioned above, the FAO needs to recognize the need for increased and continued research into high yield agriculture. To the contrary, they have recommended sustainable agriculture. The result would be the loss of millions of square miles of habitat. The second part is farm trade liberalization. The world's best farmland, unfortunately, is not distributed evenly to meet the nation-by-nation food demands of the 21st Century. For example, Asia will have eight to nine times as many people per acre of cropland that will the western hemisphere. Feeding them, and saving Asia's tropical forest, will require open farm trade with those areas with more cropland, and with high yield production, namely the western hemisphere. It is our position that policies to encourage such a result should be the outcome of the World Food Summit.

Roger G. Hanson, AJH Corporation

Soil and water are the natural resource endowments which nations strive to obtain food security. When land resource were plentiful during periods of low population, production agriculture could readily expand and/or move on to new lands as soils became nutrient depleted and degraded. With the steady increase in the world's population this type of practice is no longer feasible. This is particularly evident in the developing countries, where soils are nutrient depleted and already under high production pressures. To supply the projected population for the year 2025 with only today's level of basic food and nutrition will require relative increases in production of just the basic foods. Therefore, we believe that the use of Integrated Nutrient Management programs should be initiated and developed world

wide. The program should be implemented within the country it is meant to ensure that it serves the soil resources and crop production systems within a country's national borders. The quantitative science for Integrated Nutrient Management based on Soil Testing was developed and is widely used in the United States and it is fitting that this should be a strong component of the U.S. Global thrust for food security.

**Norman A. Berg, Washington
Representative, Soil and Water
Conservation Society**

We are pleased that the U.S. is committed to working toward programs and policies that recognize and respond to the food security needs of all nations. We are also in agreement with the paper's statement that a sustainable natural resource base is one of the many factors which can influence the availability, access, and utilization of food and the food security of a country. We believe that a sustainable natural resource base can be compatible with all-out production if producers continue to practice stewardship and are not encouraged as they were in the seventies, to crop soils best suited long-term for grass or trees. The recent Conservation Title of FAIR adds good programs for conservation as land use intensifies. Rule-making is underway and delivery of essential services to endusers, on a voluntary basis, should coincide with decisions to rebuild stocks of key commodities, if the new provisions are funded. SWCS is concerned that with the drive to balance the federal budget by 2002, discretionary funds for research, extension, and technical assistance programs in USDA will be at risk. This would be the wrong signal to send to producers as they accelerate

production of commodities.

Gary L. Valen, Managing Director of Eating with Conscience Programs, The Humane Society of the United States

The discussion about the security of the world food supply in the coming years provides opportunities to promote several agendas. One position is that the growing world population will require an unrestricted agricultural industry that places the fear of hunger over concerns about the environment, people's health, and the humane treatment of farm animals. This argument supports an expansion of agribusiness exports across the globe. We believe that world food security is best provided by long-term commitments to humane, organic and sustainable agriculture. We also believe that a relationship between producers and consumers in the same location is the best way to ensure a steady and healthy source of food in the future. It is our hope that the principle of linking livestock and poultry production with ecologically sound, organic crop and forage production systems and environmentally sound rangeland management be included as part of the U.S. position on sustainable agriculture.

Jay Vroom, American Crop Protection Association

In 30 years, projections tell us world population could increase by 50 percent to nearly 9 billion. How do we, in agriculture and agribusiness, plan to meet food and fiber demands at two and three times current needs when our world supplies are barely adequate today? The hope of meeting needed growth in world food needs has no foundation other than the promise of

continued discovery, development and implementation of new, improved methods of crop protection, plant breeding and other methods of high yield farming. The United States scientific and agricultural extension community has helped prove that American agriculture--and American farmers ability to quickly adopt and adapt new technology--has fashioned our nations food production, processing, marketing and transportation into the most productive, safest, and most thoroughly regulated food system in the world. So with regard to technology, we advocate that the U.S. delegation should support the following: 1) the promotion of UN-FAO acceptance of world wide implementation of integrated crop management systems, 2) extend the further progress of international harmonization of regulatory standards for the market approval of crop protection products, and other technologies and 3) require more thorough recognition and global protection of important intellectual property protection which are the bedrock of continued innovation.

Dr. R. Heather Jaffan, Rotary International

Many developing countries lack technical infrastructure. Either it's not complete, or nonexistent. To be able to have sustainable agriculture they have to have a cost-effective production system. This system must ensure that there are linkages between the production and nutrition requirement for a particular country. This should come also as government prioritization, with an additional effort toward linking government and non-government organizations in the effort. The U.S. should support linkages that help to disseminate information, transfer technology,

or appropriate technology. It is also important that these technologies are appropriate for the countries that receive them.

Richard E. Gutting, Jr., National Fisheries Institute

Fish and shellfish supply 20 percent of the animal protein in the human diet and provide employment for 120 million people around the world. Fishery resources are renewable and do not require the chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and growth hormones which are often used in the production of other foods. Demand for fish and shellfish is increasing faster than supply, and experts warn us of substantial shortfalls by the year 2010. This projected gap can be averted through a combination of measures. One way is to ensure that harvests are sustainable. In order to achieve this, the U.S. should urge other nations to adopt the fishery management principles in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Agenda 21, the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. We would like to see the U.S. encourage full use of fish resources through the development of new fisheries, more selective fishing technologies and improved processing technologies. Finally, the U.S. should refrain from unilateral trade embargoes, which only serve to coerce nations into adopting U.S. animal-protection policies which are inconsistent with the dietary and cultural needs of other peoples.

Mimi Kleiner, The Environmental Defense Fund

We are pleased to see that this policy paper

calls for the establishment of regional Integrated Pest Management(IPM) program for major food crops by the year 2000, and that it advocates traditional food crop production, the use of labor-intensive technologies, and the establishment of pest surveillance systems with participation of civil society. However, the U.S. statement does not even discuss options for promoting IPM programs worldwide. If the U.S. is committed to supporting sustainable agriculture and rural development, we must look to this experience with IPM as the only successful large scale effort to date. Given the large sums of money which the U.S. has committed to international development through bilateral and multilateral channels, our investments in farmer led IPM are among our best performing dollars spent. The U.S. should join other bilateral donors, including the EU, in active participation in and financing of the Facility's pilot projects. We should ensure that U.S. policy informs and is informed by the work of the joint IPM Facility. Encouraging other countries to join as partners to the Facility would be a positive contribution to the World Food Summit.

Dr. J. Patrick Madden, President, World Sustainable Agricultural Association

America's role in world food security is a paradox. On the one hand, a cardinal virtue of the American character that we can all be proud of is our commitment to feeding the hungry. On the other hand, the way we have gone about feeding the hungry has been short-sighted at times, and occasionally disastrous. The U.S. is indeed a world leader, and we should provide a model of recognizing and addressing, rather than denying, the severity of food security problems we face. This Administration is to

be commended for the Community Food Security Act, and for the on-going efforts through programs such as school lunch, Women, Infants and Children, Food Stamps, and other efforts to ensure food security. We should recognize candidly that there are no magic bullets to solve problems such as loss of family farms, pesticide damage to the environment and human health. The Administration's initiatives are a step in the right direction, but adequate and sustained funding to support effective programs must remain a high priority. The U.S. should also support a farmer-led approach to sustainable food security. Farmers are central to the goal of food security. Build on their production methods, using our enhanced scientific knowledge, to produce food. We believe that the promotion of ecologically harmful and dangerous chemical pesticides and genetically engineered seeds owned by multinational corporations poses a grave threat to farmers and to food security worldwide.

Tim Warman, Vice President for Programs, American Farmland Trust

Our first recommendation is that there be a global agricultural lands study designed to inventory productive farmland, estimate its potential for increased productivity and identify threats, such as development, to its future productivity. Our second recommendation is to establish global goals for farmland protection that will encourage all countries and international institutions to make the protection of farmland resources a priority and an integral part of national economic and sustainable development plans. Our final recommendation is the designation of a global institution to monitor the changes in agricultural land resources and farmland

productivity relative to global food needs and trade patterns. This body should produce an annual report on the condition of the world's agricultural resources, with specific emphasis on use and availability of productive farmland. It is short sighted and unwise to assume continuous productivity gains when some regions of the world are experiencing productivity declines due to destruction of farmland by development or poor farming practices that lead to soil loss. Whether or not this is accompanied by dramatic increases in hunger and environmental degradation, the United States success will depend on its ability to balance global food demands with sustainable agriculture production.

Linda Elsieck, Rural Advancement Foundation International

The U.S. position paper makes much about the U.S. remaining a "reliable supplier", but the U.S. must come to terms with the contradiction between the U.S. continuing to promote long term dependency and promoting local self-reliance at the same time. We must evaluate agricultural production policies and systems as if energy mattered. It is not sustainable, for the long term, to support and promote long distance food dependence for equivalent products that can be grown locally, especially during similar time periods. It creates local vulnerability, and concentration of agribusiness, and it undermines local initiatives and thus exacerbates social and environmental degradation. We must begin to be proactive in our policies and not simply reactive or favor short term private gains. We must promote domestically and internationally the maximization of local marketing windows of opportunity that each

community has in order to build local self-reliance. Trade then can proceed from the position of what additional foods are needed to fill the remaining culturally appropriate local needs and what surpluses are available to meet other local communities' unmet food needs.

Domestic Food Security Programs

Christine Vladimiroff--Second Harvest

Programs here at home are not notable and not enough. True programs have to be measured by increased food security for Americans who work and lack the resources for their families. The real test of our resolve is the food security for our children. The following observations should be addressed:

- (1) make a stronger statements about our struggle to food security;
- (2) design innovative USDA commodity programs to target domestic hunger relief; and
- (3) make non-government organizations (NGOs) a part of response to solve domestic food security.

Nanine Bilski--The America the Beautiful Fund

Over 3 billion pounds of food was grown by and for hungry people through the America the Beautiful Fund program. Seed donation to community and to needy relieves hunger and improves blighted neighborhoods. Based on various successes of the project in the United States, such food growing can be done anywhere.

Marc J. Cohen--Bread for the World

We believe that solutions of food insecurity must include common elements such as community empowerment and self-reliance, environmentally sustainable development, expanded income earning opportunities for the poor, strengthened publicly funded safety nets, demilitarization, and multi-cultural diversity. Bread for the World recommends full funding and utilization of existing federal government nutrition assistance programs to end wide spread food insecurity. The U.S. country paper is too complacent in its treatment of international food security. The paper places too much emphasis on technology and trade. Poverty reduction ought to be emphasized.

The U.S. country draft paper fails to discuss the impact of U.S. agricultural policies on global food security. Farmer-Owned Reserve (FOR) could be an important and effective part of an internationally coordinated, nationally controlled system of grain reserves. We endorse efforts of the proposed Food Security Treaty.

On development assistance, the author is concerned that U.S. assistance, including U.S. aid to agriculture, to developing world has been significantly reduced. He encourages the United States Government to play a leading role.

U.S. aid policy should be coherence between military aid and development aid. The United States and other countries need a better coordinated, comprehensive approach to developing countries debts.

A.G. Kawamura--President, Western Market Company

Speaking as a farmer in Southern California,

he pointed out that agriculture, by definition, is sustainable. Complex challenges facing agriculture will become more critical if the public fails to recognize the future role of agriculture. The elimination of hunger and chronic malnutrition will come as a result of agricultural awareness. Urban fruit and vegetable growers can participate in solving hunger and chronic malnutrition. He cited a successful example of gleaning post-harvest fields that community and volunteers in Orange County, California, had come together to glean cabbage, green beans, and sweet corn.

Peter Mann-- International Coordinator, World Hunger Year

Emphasizing the importance of agriculture in urban areas, the author speaks about the need to build alliances around local and regional food security in order to get food to those who need it. USDA, building on existing programs such as WIC, Community Food Security Empowerment Act, and gleaning should actively encourage food security alliances prepared for the World Food Summit.

U.S. Contribution to World Food Security

Nelson Denlinger--U.S. Wheat Associates

The United States should look at Title I as furthering economic development and helping to give transition to countries making changes they need. As the world becomes more urbanized, we need to help the poor and the needy join the world economy.

Peter Vitaliano--Director of Policy Analysis, National Milk Producers Federation

Through U.S. dairy price support program, P.L. 480, the Section 416 CCC sales, and Food for Progress program in the past, the United States provided foreign donations and concessional sales for world food security. The U.S. budget reduction has reduced the U.S. contribution to world food security.

David Bathrick--President, Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development

The U.S. draft paper does not respond to the U.S.'s stated objectives to strive to head off growing fears that current price spikes may cause a stalling or reversal of trade liberalization trends by poorer countries. The report's specific recommendations appear somewhat perfunctory and not responsive to changes in economic forces now occurring throughout the world. The United States needs a more proactive approach, one that effectively mobilizes the developed and developing countries and builds on recent leadership taken by the World Bank President to place special priorities on rural development.

Clifton Cutis, Greenpeace

The U.S. draft country paper does not give enough attention to sustainable development. The speaker calls for a rejection of proposals that do not reflect a sustainable approach such as the Kyoto Conference last December that advocated unsustainable fishery practices. Action needs to ratchet down the problem of excess fishing capacity. Unsustainable practices in aquaculture are also a concern. In addition, the speaker raises an issue of poisonous pesticides that reveal the global scale and severity of

persistent organic pollutants, known as POPs, such as DDT, toxaphene, chlordane, heptachlor, and the drins. Urgent action is needed globally to reduce and/or eliminate the use of these persistent organic pollutants. The Summit should give strong endorsement and support to a global initiative under the auspices of UNEP to negotiate and agree on a globally legally binding instrument to eliminate POPs. The speaker urges USDA, EPA, and others to join the effort.

Alex Hershaft, President, Farm Animal Reform Movement

Farm Animal Reform Movement advocates sustainable agricultural practices and sound health for world food security. Current starvation levels can be reduced through population control by promoting a plant-based diet. The Farm Animal Reform Movement also disagreed with the U.S. draft paper which states that the current world grain shortages do not reflect a long-term crisis.

The Role of Countries in Helping Themselves

Kathy Ozer, Director, National Family Farm Coalition

A major concern is that people are ignoring the farmer and consumer in solutions to end hunger. We need to look at the whole spectrum and create solutions that work on both ends, both in this country and for producers and consumers in other countries globally.

Our grain reserve policy may need to be reconsidered. The Summit is an important opportunity for the United States to work in

collaboration with other governments who recognize the importance of programs for each country to meet their domestic needs. The Coalition supports special emphasis on sustainable agriculture and self-reliance. They also support an international reserve. We need policies that look at community, regional, and domestic and international food security needs, and programs to make that happen.

Rev. Imogene B. Stewart, National President, African-American Women's Clergy Association

The Association believes that charity begins at home, and then spreads abroad. Home is the U.S. A. We need a renewed commitment from world leaders to take care of their own, and we'll take care of our own. Rev. Stewart urged the United States to cancel the Summit, which is a burden on U.S. taxpayers.

Trade and World Food Security

Susan Keith, Government Relations Representative, National Corn Growers Association

The widespread availability of high quality animal feedstuffs has led to the efficient production of meats, dairy, poultry, and eggs in the United States. Such high-value products can be exported to improve nutrition in foreign countries, if trade barriers which limit such exports are eliminated. Logistical barriers which make it difficult to handle perishable commodities must also be removed, if the U.S. livestock sector is to fulfill its potential to make animal protein available world-wide.

We must ensure that the United States maintains its reputation as reliable supplier of food and feed, particularly with current world grain supplies at such unusually low levels. In the past, U.S. farmers and the United States government have held grain in reserve for times of special need, but that is not the case with current domestic farm policy. Producers and users of corn must establish a fair and workable strategy for assuring an adequate supply of grain from one year to the next.

Lynn McBride, Representative, National Farmers Union

The U.S. country draft paper "urges all countries to open their markets in the interest of maintaining maximum stability in the world market" and "to refrain from taking unnecessary actions to provide short-term internal price stability." In other words, the United States is now asking countries that currently have a safety net for farmers when prices drop to eliminate them, and asking all other countries that do not have a safety net to refrain from establishing one. The drafters of this paper contend that "open international markets(will) provide increased price stability in the long run." How many years are they referring to in the long run? Because under this type of scenario when farmers are asked to wait years and years for price stability, a few big farms will be the only ones left standing.

On numerous occasions the paper commends the U.S. efforts to liberalize its agricultural markets enacted under the new farm bill as an important step necessary to prepare the U.S. to compete in the global marketplace. National Farmers Union firmly believes the changes under the new farm bill that

decouple farm programs from the market and phase them out over seven years put our nation in jeopardy of eliminating family-sized farms altogether. Instead of urging countries to adopt certain free trade philosophies, the U.S. instead should focus on the critical role family farm agriculture has played in establishing and maintaining our Nation's food security.

Carol L. Brookins, Chairman and CEO, World Perspectives, Inc.

The U.S. Government should take a leadership role in changing the context of the debate on food security from a domestic agricultural production vantage point to the objective of bringing all countries into the modern global food system. Sustainable food security can only be achieved through countries participating on a regular basis in the global food system, and that means in global food trade. Countries which in fact practice self-sufficiency clothed in the new, more acceptable wording of "food self-reliance" often have the most distorted markets. These types of markets have put disproportional internal adjustment on other net exporting countries, while creating great insecurity in net importing countries, who must be able to depend on a fair, consistently operating world market.

I recommend that we build an initiative to provide a reliable supplier nondiscriminatory pledge that would give the same access to markets for domestic and foreign buyers in times of short supply. I also believe that the U.S. should call for the rapid integration of less developed countries into the world economy. Food security is not just production agriculture. The growth of world incomes and populations will require

investment in the entire agri-food infrastructure to sustain expanding food needs of rapidly changing demographics.

Food Aid and Development Assistance

Jindra Cekan--Catholic Relief Services

We are concerned about the micro causes of food insecurity, i.e., food distribution and access issues. It is a fallacy to expect, as the draft U.S. paper suggests, that increased agricultural research and investment in human capital will take care of food availability. A greater commitment of funding from the wealthy nations to the poorer ones must occur. We recommend distinguishing in the paper among food insecurity due to (1) emergencies; (2) poverty, and (3) condition (handicapped, ill, etc.) and targeting policies to the specific needs of these groups. Also recommends: encouraging macroeconomic reforms by developing countries while considering debt forgiveness, particularly for low income drought-prone countries; encouraging national governments to set aside a fixed percentage of the GDP to be spent on social sectors; increasing the U.S. development assistance allocation from .5% to the goal of 1%; using GATT talks to decrease trade barriers to less developed countries; increasing allocations for research on grain staples (especially drought-resistant) via the CGIAR; increasing funding for research in the countries themselves; increasing funding for famine early warning systems; and, increasing networking between developed and developing country researchers. With the help of famine early warning systems, food reserves can be used to prevent emergencies from escalating to the point of destitution, not just to respond to

emergencies.

Jim Phippard--Senior Vice President/Programs, ACDI, Agricultural Cooperative Development International

The U.S. paper should recognize that development assistance plays an important role in helping the emerging economies become future agricultural markets. Three suggestions for improving the paper: (1) agriculture should be emphasized in U.S. foreign assistance programs; (2) the paper should broaden the scope that the U.S. role has been and should be in international agricultural development beyond research. It should stress the importance of a food systems approach; (3) the paper should recognize that the introduction of U.S. food aid to foreign markets through monetization can have a beneficial effect on the local markets themselves (too much focus on disincentive effects). The last sentence in the second bullet on page 22 of the draft should be reworded to say: "Title II commodities may be sold (monetized) as a means of developing local markets and in order to provide local currencies to assist the development impact of food aid." Developing internal trade within developing countries is as important as developing external trade.

Ellen S. Levinson--Executive Director, Coalition for Food Aid

The draft U.S. paper must focus more on what the U.S. can do, particularly in the short term, to address the food gap problem. Unfortunately we are not going to close food gaps quickly through economic growth. Food aid will be needed. We shouldn't precipitously withdraw resources from on-

going programs, in order to respond to emergencies.

The 1996 Farm Bill allows authority to use the Food Security Commodity Reserve funds to provide food assistance for emergencies (the U.S. paper needs to be updated to recognize this). This frees up P.L. 480 funds for use on regular programming for countries that are still food insecure. This would require the USG to buy commodities on the open market, a better alternative than that advocated by the draft paper, which calls for the USG to continue to purchase commodities from the Reserve at market prices using PL 480 funds. Food aid should be used to help build local capacities to produce, process, market, import and have access to food. This will promote economic growth and food security.

Betsy Faga--President, Protein Grain Products International

The U.S. draft should include a stronger U.S. commitment to the Food for Peace Program. While the ultimate objective in world food security is sustainable development, the fact remains that the hungry must be fed. Included in the recent Clinton/Gore Plan on Agriculture was a plan to increase funding for the Food for Peace Program.

In addition, in the final act of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral trade negotiations Ministers agreed "...to initiate negotiations to establish a level of food aid commitments sufficient to meet the legitimate needs of developing countries...". The U.S. is making promises to the world community, but is doing exactly the opposite as shown by the continual decline in food aid dollars and

tonnages. Recognizing budgetary constraints, the U.S. must honor its pledges. Recommends that the policy statement on page 40 be expanded to include a U.S. pledge to increase its commitment to the Food for Peace Program by restoring its food aid commitment to at least 6 million metric tons and committing to reallocating financial resources to this direct humanitarian program.

Tracy Atwood--Chief, USAID Food Policy Division, on behalf of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD)

At its meeting on May 14-15, BIFAD developed a list of five means through which food security can be improved. These are: (1) improved network through which information about food and agriculture can more easily flow; (2) strategic international agricultural research; (3) openness of countries toward agricultural trade, in particular, avoiding excessive pursuit of self-sufficiency; (4) development of rural health clinics that emphasize maternal and child health and nutrition and can provide advice on family planning; and (5) poverty alleviation.

Elizabeth Turner--SUSTAIN, Sharing United States Technology to Aid in the Improvement of Nutrition

SUSTAIN feels that the paper falls short of addressing how the Summit will lead to the stated objective of achieving "measurable and accountable results." Encourages the U.S. government to consider the role of food quality in addressing food security and nutrition concerns and in helping small businesses in getting access to information

and technologies to improve quality and meet international requirements. The World Food Summit should examine the implications of the World Trade Agreement (WTA) and standards set by organizations such as the CODEX Alimentarius Commission. The WTA encourages governments to harmonize or base their national measures on international standards such as those developed in CODEX. There is concern about the extent to which developing countries will be able to meet and adopt these standards.

The World Food Summit should review these concerns to determine what assistance may be needed by governments, the private sector and NGO's. Finally, the role that fortification plays in reducing malnutrition should addressed.

Detlev Puetz--Research Fellow, IFPRI, International Food Policy Research Institute

Properly handled food aid is an essential component of effective assistance to low-income food-deficit countries. There are three situations where food aid is more important than financial assistance: (1) emergencies; (2) when markets fail to provide food; and (3) when people who receive assistance are more likely to consume food when assistance is given directly in the form of food rather than money. In many other situations giving financial assistance it better. With declining food aid we have to be very careful in targeting it and in finding the right mix of food aid and financial assistance.

Food aid needs to be integrated into overall development assistance. The paper does not

adequately address the following two issues: (1) cooperation with other agencies, e.g. the European Union and (2) the "micro" perspective could be elaborated more. It is important to treat food security at micro or household level, and to recognize the critical importance of women in household food security. Food security in urban areas needs to be addressed, not just that in rural areas.

Larry Thompson--Senior Associate, Refugees International

Proposes the establishment of a "Global Food Reserve" to be administered by the World Food Program (WFP). The United States and other food-surplus countries would pledge to earmark a reserve of food -- primarily grain -- to be made available for meeting the urgent needs of humanitarian emergencies. A drawdown of the food reserve would immediately be replenished by the donor country. He recognizes that such a reserve may seem impractical, but circumstances mandate its existence.

Norman Grieg--Fruit and Dairy Farmer

Advocates a domestic food reserve--a model that would be replicated around the world. With the new Farm Bill farmers think they won with the elimination of the reserves. The U.S. Government thinks it won because it no longer has to pay for expensive reserves. In fact, the issue of whether or not to hold reserves is still with us, and needs to be addressed. Proposes a domestic food reserve where the government doesn't own the food. Farmers would hold reserves on sale for the government and the government would supply a small incentive to do so in the form of interest to private farmers. The government would obtain the food on a first-

refusal basis at market price. As such the reserve wouldn't "create a cloud" over the marketplace. The farmers would win because they have something they are used to holding anyway and the government would win because it wouldn't be holding a large capital cost.

Summary of Submitted Papers

American Farm Bureau Federation

Global agricultural policy should strive to achieve three important overriding objectives. First, it should increase productivity and efficiency--this will ensure consumers access to a safe, adequate and affordable food and fiber supply. Second, it should conserve and enhance our natural resources; and third, it should enhance economic opportunity for farmers through a long-term, market-oriented policy.

The critical issue is not what, but how it should be achieved. Farmers and ranchers need to be aware of the effect of their management practices on the environment as well as the programs, groups and agencies that can assist them. Producer-to-producer education is a key component of this effort. When farmers and ranchers decide that they need to make on-farm improvements, adequately trained conservation technicians at the local level must be available.

Farmers and ranchers also need cost-sharing and/or incentive payments to install structural practice, change equipment and shift production methods. The Farm Bureau believes improving net farm income, enhancing the economic opportunity for farmers and ranchers and preserving property rights are the foundations of maintaining a

viable productive global agriculture.

Heidi Huttenbach and Max Finberg-- Congressional Hunger Center

The Congressional Hunger Center believes that hunger is a problem in the United States. An estimated 30 million people in the United States, including 12 million children, do not always have enough to eat. This is far greater than the 2-4 percent of American households reported in the U.S. draft paper. Also, hunger knows no boundaries. It is not accurate to say that only "sub-populations" are food insecure.

The paper should acknowledge the contribution that non-profit organizations make towards alleviating hunger. It could also be valuable to reference and reaffirm the commitments the United States made to children at the United Nations' World Summit for Children in 1990.

Arthur E. (Gene) Dewey--Executive Director, Congressional Hunger Center

The focus on food security is essential. We hope the 1996 Food Summit would result in priority to the current food security issues. The Congressional Hunger Center wants to help shape message. Our specific concerns of the U.S. draft country paper are:

- 1). There is a too UN-like, least common denominator, least offensive approach to the acute political obstacles to food security.
- 2). Because of the global approach, instead of region specific, nothing is addressed adequately.
- 3). The policy statement and plan of action should be the clearest and the strongest.
- 4). There is no call for cost-effective response strategies for food security such as

multi-year procurement by the World Food Program from food excess countries in Africa.

5). The paper lacks of mechanisms and procedures for accountability in conference follow-up.

6). Insufficient attention is given to NGOs.

7). Accountability for conference commitments should be more forceful.

John Staatz, Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University

Increasing agricultural productivity plays a critical role in guaranteeing food availability in the future. However, the focus should be broader to include increases in productivity throughout the food system. Increasing the productivity of off-farm elements of the food system, such as marketing, storage, processing, contract enforcement mechanisms, public information systems, and policies is essential to assuring that food is available and affordable to low-income consumers.

The U.S. draft paper should give more emphasis to the importance of, and high payoff to, strengthening human and institutional capital in Sub-Sahara Africa and South Asia through training and investing in local and regional capacity building. The United States has a clear comparative advantage in this type of training.

The United States makes important contributions through cooperative research agreements and through training of foreign scientists to work on food system development problems in their home countries. These contribution should be mentioned. The main U.S. contribution to international food security does not

necessarily come from food aid.

Our current targeted nutritional programs such as food stamps are an efficient and effective way to reaching vulnerable groups in the United States, but not as effective in less developed countries because of their lack of information and institutional capacity.

Achievement of broad based economic growth reduces poverty and thereby improves distribution of resources to obtain food.

It's a little early to talk definitely about how the 1996 Act will improve food security. Some preliminary research suggests that prices under the 1996 Act will be significantly more volatile than under previous farm bills.

The paper should be more explicit about what the United States will do to translate principles for guiding food security policy into specific progresses and policies.

R. Hunt Davis, Jr., Coordinator, Global Research on the Environmental and Agricultural Nexus for the 21st Century (GREAN)

GREAN is a response to the urgent need to increase factor productivity in developing countries in order to eliminate the massive incidence of hunger and poverty with recognition given to environmental concerns.

Sustainable environmental productivity growth, and a desire to alleviate hunger and poverty call for new ideas from frontiers of science. The U.S. scientists have potential to work with scientists from developing countries and with CGIAR scientists. A

1993 workshop, "Reconciling Sustainability with Productivity Growth," addressed the causes and consequences of the decline in U.S. involvement, developed consensus actions to take, and decided on the nature of steps needed to achieve it.

Three interlocked issues--the need to counter the spectra of hunger, the scourge of environmental degradation, and the high rate of population increase in the poorest countries--constitute the most urgent challenge facing the world community in the 21st century. The GREAN initiative's mission is to meet this triple challenge by generating a second generation of green revolutions, working closely with the World Bank, private sector, NGOs, and universities in developing countries. It is not enough to alleviate poverty and hunger. It is urgent to do so in a manner that causes the least harm to the natural resources.

Four priority research program proposed by GREAN are:

1. Enhanced productivity, food security, nutrition, and health;
2. Sustainable use of soils, water, forests, and fisheries;
3. Conservation of biological diversity in natural and domesticated systems; and
4. Coping with an uncertain and fluctuating climate.

Robin S. Johnson, Corporate Vice President, Cargill, Incorporated

Cargill recommends that the United States carry the message of domestic policy reform and agricultural trade liberalization to Rome's Summit and continue to provide leadership in its own actions.

The current tight food supply situation did not occur overnight. This imbalance was caused by high population growth, higher rate of increase in demand for more and better food, and rapid urbanization. Meanwhile, policy makers worried about surpluses. Land is being converted to urban development, to desertification. Land is also taken out of production by governments.

The Green Revolution has reached a point of diminishing returns. Research to bring forward new productivity gains takes time, therefore we need to increase research funding now.

More attention to building an efficient global food system is needed. The Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act has ended the idling of land in government programs. The Act, if widely adopted, could enable the world to build a more efficient, environmentally sound global food system.

A global food system that builds on more open trade and investment, and market-oriented domestic policies can move supplies quickly and inexpensively from surplus to deficit areas. As global trade becomes easier, the reduction in food-security reserves offers cost saving for the global system as a whole. Such open global food system also encourage production, stimulate economic development.

The roles of markets and of research are central to effort to raise global food security.



